



## TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, TN 37243-0505  
615.741.2904

---

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Sept. 24, 2007**

**Contact: Phil West**  
**615.741.2904 x 246**  
[Phil.west@state.tn.us](mailto:Phil.west@state.tn.us)

**Contact: Jessica L. Johnson**  
**615-741-2904 x233**  
[Jessica.johnson@state.tn.us](mailto:Jessica.johnson@state.tn.us)

### **TRA HELPS PEOPLE COMMUNICATE VIA TELEPHONE DESPITE DISABILITIES**

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** – How difficult life would be if a person couldn't use the telephone because of a disability. Tennessee is one of a few states that is addressing the problem and improving the quality of life for thousands of Tennesseans, Tennessee Regulatory Authority Chairman Eddie Roberson said today.

The TRA provides free specialized equipment that enabled more than 1,800 Tennesseans to communicate via telephone during the 2006-07 fiscal year that ended June 30. Since 2002, the TRA has given communications devices to nearly 8,500 Tennesseans who otherwise could not communicate via telephone. The TRA wants to raise awareness of the Telecommunications Devices Access Program (TDAP) during National Deaf Awareness Week that began on Sunday and ends Saturday, Roberson said.

"A citizen's quality of life and safety depends upon being able to communicate over the telephone to the outside world. Through the vision and leadership of the General Assembly and governor, Tennesseans needing a helping hand are receiving assistance," Roberson said.

The General Assembly established TDAP in 1999. The TRA has distributed more than \$1.8 million worth of devices since the July 2002. The program initially was aimed to help individuals with hearing loss, vision and speech disabilities. The General Assembly expanded the program in 2004 to people with any disability.

Citizens with questions about how to apply for TDAP assistance should call 615-741-3939 or 1-800-342-8359.

The TRA's mission is to promote the public interest by balancing the interests of utility consumers and providers. For more information on the TRA, visit online at [www.state.tn.us/tra](http://www.state.tn.us/tra).

###